

Movers and Shakers

The Building Community Awards were presented at the 29th Leadership Gala to a select group of individuals and organizations whose contributions and service to others through leadership on critical issues facing urban communities has changed many lives. Their commitment to social and economic justice reflects and exemplifies our goal to develop sustainable and inclusive communities for people from all walks of life.

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

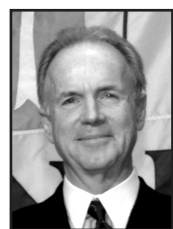
Marian Heard

President & CEO
United Way Massachusetts Bay

Called "the most honored United Way Chief Executive in America and a champion for youth", Marian Heard was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of New England in February of 1992. In July of 2004, Ms. Heard plans to retire from her position as President and CEO, leaving behind a memorable legacy. Prior to her time in Massachusetts, she served 17 years in various leadership capacities at the United Way of Eastern Fairfield County in Bridgeport, Connecticut, spending the last three years there as President and Chief Executive Officer.

In addition, Ms. Heard is the Founding President and Chief Executive Officer of the Points of Light Foundation, organized to perpetuate President George Bush's call for volunteers to address serious social problems in our nation. President Bush acts as the Honorary Chairperson and Ms. Heard continues to serve as a Board Member after serving two terms as National Board Chairperson.

A tireless advocate for children and youth throughout the years, Ms. Heard is the recipient of 13 honorary doctorate degrees and numerous local, regional and national awards including being named the National Public Citizen of the Year for 1998 by the National Association of Social Workers.



LEADERSHIP THROUGH ACTION AWARD

Ed DeMore

President and Founder
Boston Digital Bridge Foundation

The Boston Digital Bridge Foundation (BDBF) is a privately funded non-profit corporation founded with technology company executives and government leaders. In collaboration with Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston, the BDBF conceived and manages the nationally renowned Technology Goes Home program, a technology education initiative that provides computer training and computers to low-income families in order to help them bridge the digital divide. The goals of the program are to enhance employment opportunities for adults, improve academic performance for children and to increase community collaboration and cooperation within and between Boston's inner city neighborhoods.

BDBF also strongly supports TechBoston, a technology curriculum in the Boston Public Schools and TechBoston Academy, the only pilot school in the Boston Public School system incorporating technology within each subject. Both programs aim to create and support a highly trained and skilled workforce that will benefit Boston families and businesses.

Outside his work with the Foundation, Ed DeMore is a Board Member and Advisor to the Light of Africa Foundation, a unique philanthropic model that supports an AIDS orphanage based in Cape Town, South Africa.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

*Hyde Square Task Force
Youth Organization*

The Task Force's teen leadership program involves 50 Roxbury and JP youth who receive intensive training and serve in a variety of roles in the community: literacy tutors for younger students at the JFK School and at JP Headstart; Latin dance performers and dance teachers at local schools; and community organizers who have led the call for a youth center in Jackson Square and are involved in several other youth issues. The teens also receive tutoring, mentoring, life skills, and college prep support. Two of the current youth leaders were recently elected to the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, where they have created a new Jamaica Plain Youth Committee.

(Continued on page 6)